

Flags for Heroes Williamstown, West Virginia

A Lions Club Project

Photo Essay © by Dewayne & Ginnie Lowther





Flags for Heroes, honoring military members, first responders, teachers, clergy and other heroes (past or present).

The goal was to blanket Tomlinson Park with 100 flags during the club's annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast and to proudly display them for nine days. A total of **185 flags** were purchased by those who contributed \$50.00 to not only nominate some one to be honored, but also to support the Williamstown Lions Club's plan to provide handicapped and wheelchair accessable playground equipment in Williamstown's Tomlinson Park. Each flag had a commemorative medalian giving the honoree's name. At a Dedication Ceremony in Tomlinson Park, those names were read aloud by Lion's Club members. All Veteran Hero flags and Commemorative Medallions will be flown again on Veteran's Day.

The Williamstown Lions Club would like to thank everyone who helped to make Flags for Heroes a success! All proceeds from flag sponsorships will be used to purchase playground equipment for Tomlinson Park that meets ADA requirements.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization in the world with over 46,000 clubs and over 1.4 million members worldwide. The Williamstown Lions Club was chartered on October 25, 1946 with 38 members and sponsored by the Parkersburg Lions Club. We currently have 33 members and have been instrumental in the community since 1946. Everywhere we work, we make friends and help to meet the needs of our community through vision screenings and eyeglasses or improving our beautiful park so that ALL may enjoy.

Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday of the month (September thru June) at the First Presbyterian Church in Williamstown. If you have an interest in becoming a Lion, please reach out to one of our members. Or you may email us at WilliamstownLionsClub@yahoo.com . We would love to get to know you!

"You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else." Melvin Jones, Founder, Lions Clubs International



Since 1954, when Dewayne Lowther was a *Charter Member* of the *Wilsonburg, West Virginia Lions Club*, he and Ginnie have used Photographic Journaling to create Visual Essays to help tell the story of projects by Lions Clubs and others in communities across West Virginia where they have served United Methodist Congregations.

Dewayne joined the *Downtown Charleston Lions Club in 1962*, was a member and served as Secretary for the *Charleston West Side Lions Club* and later for the *New Martinsville Lions Club*, and, while serving as pastor of Westover United Methodist Congregation in Morgantown, was elected to serve as First Vice President for the *Westover Lions Club* there. Dewayne is a member and past president of the *Williamstown Lions Club*. While serving in Clarksburg, Dewayne was recruited to be a *Kiawanian* and while serving in Keyser, he was a *Rotarian*. These clubs also serve their communities.

Now, Dewayne and Ginnie have prepared this Photo Essay to help tell the story of dedicated work by members of the Williamstown Lions Club to not only make the Flags For Heroes project a reality but also, at the same time, secure funds to provide handicapped and wheelchair playground equipment in Williamstown's Tomlinson Park.



Dewayne & Ginnie Lowther Visual Journalists, helping to tell the Stories of those who serve!

























































































































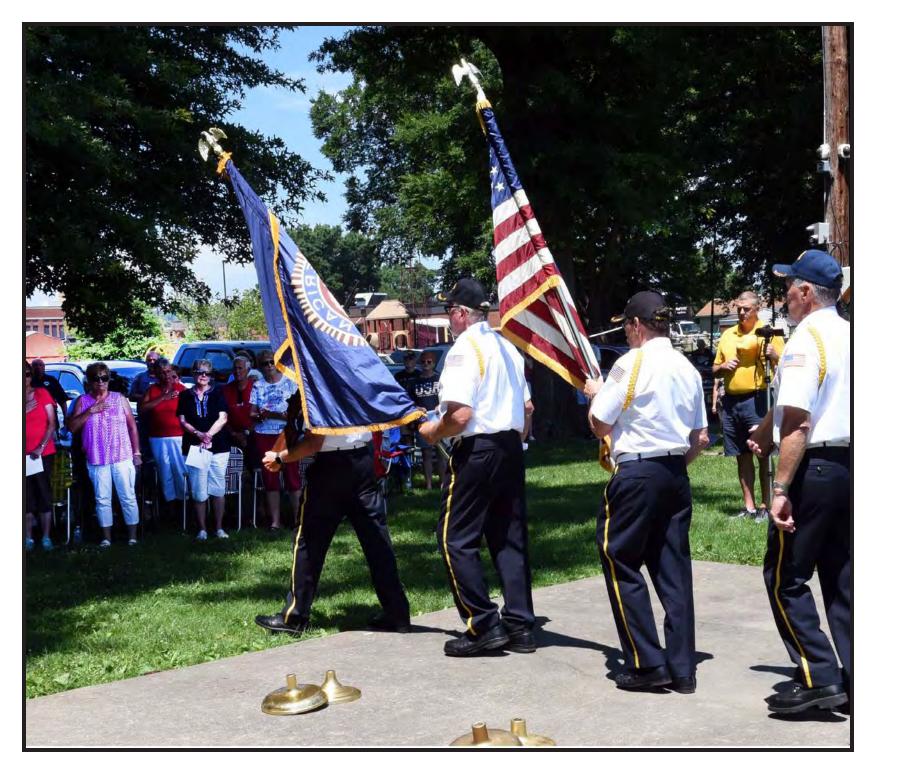
























IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

RESOLUTION



A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE WILLIAMSTOWN LIONS CLUB, "FLAGS FOR HEROES" PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Williamstown, West Virginia Lions Club has initiated a project to honor veterans and heroes of local citizens; and

WHEREAS, said project has been named "Flags for Heroes"; and

WHEREAS, all proceeds from this inaugural event will be used to purchase ADA compliant playground equipment for Tomlinson Park; and

WHEREAS, this is the first year with hopefully many more years to come where the event will continue to grow.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby support the "Flags for Heroes" project and recognizes the hard work and endeavors of the Williamstown Lions Club in giving back to their community.

RESOLVED this 5th day of July, 2018.

David Blair Couch, President

Robert K. Tebay, Commissioner

James Colombo, Commissioner































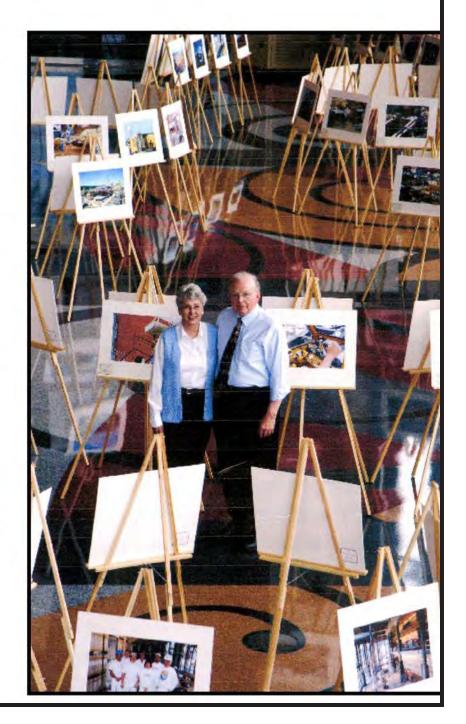
Thank you for spending time with this photo essay which we have created to document and affirm the Williamstown Lions Club historic display of flags, honoring Community Heroes.

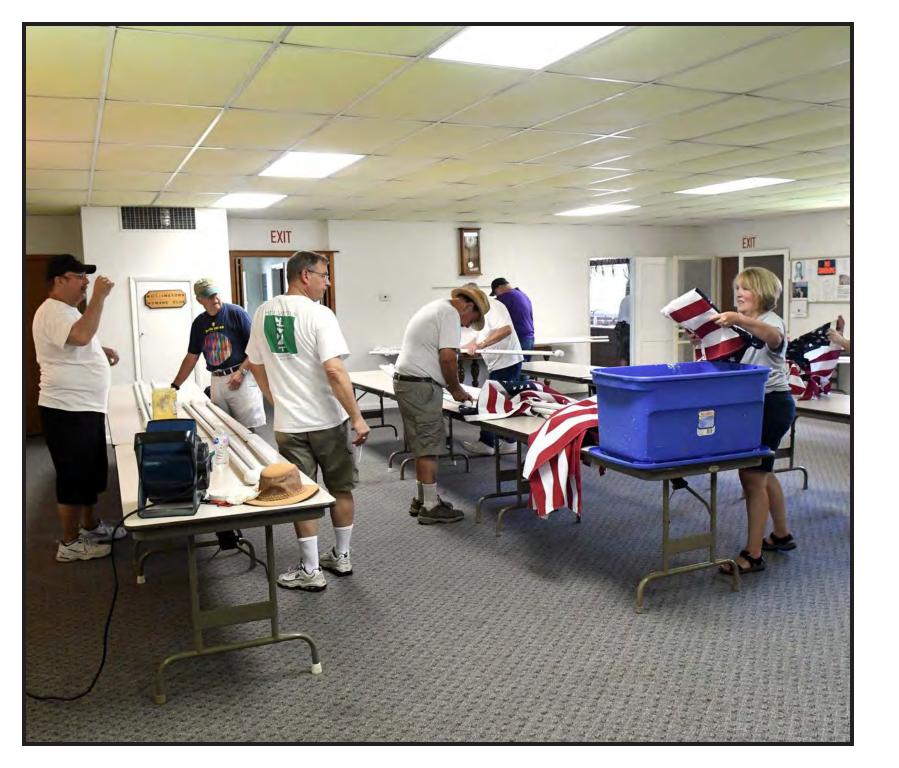
Since we began photographing together in 1949, we have had the privilege of helping tell many inspiring stories with our Visual Journaling. There have been Community Heroes in every Generation and they each have made and are making their own unique contributions to society.

Several years ago, while living in Charleston, we were given permission to be involved in a four year self assigned and self funded Visual Journaling project which gave us the opportunity to honor those we considered to be heroes as they shared their skills during construction of Clay Center For the Arts in Charleston. Over 9,000 photographs were taken during this Visual Journaling adventure. We honored the workers with a three day exhibit of over 200 photographs in Clay Center's Grand Lobby on Labor Day Weekend in 2003.

See Exhibit photo at right.

Dewayne & Ginnie Lowther





JULY 5, 2018

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